

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 3, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MALLORY submitted the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of John Hughes, praying to be allowed a pension on account of injuries received while serving in a privateer during the war of 1812, have had the same under consideration, and report:

The application of the petitioner having been submitted to the Navy Department for information as to the facts therein stated, the following letter was received by the committee:

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
January 21, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith the petition and papers of John Hughes, which accompanied your letter of the 20th instant, and to state, that after a thorough examination of Commodore Porter's correspondence, nothing can be found to show that Hughes was wounded in the service. His name appears upon the rolls of the Essex at the time stated by him.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC TOUCEY.

Hon. S. R. MALLORY,
Chairman Committee Naval Affairs, United States Senate.

The only proof which the petitioner submits of his having been wounded while serving in the Essex is his own affidavit, which is not sustained by the correspondence of Captain Porter on the files of the Navy Department.

"The only provision made by Congress for invalids disabled on board of private armed vessels, during the war of 1812, is an appropriation for the payment of the pensions of those now on the list. There is no law now in force under which original claims of this class can be allowed."—(Letter Com'r. Pensions to Senate Pension Committee, June 16, 1856.)

Your committee are of opinion that the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted, and they ask to be discharged from its further consideration.

